



AltaGas Utilities Inc.

**2017 Annual Performance-Based Regulation Rate
Adjustment Filing**

Costs Award

February 10, 2017

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 22249-D01-2017

AltaGas Utilities Inc.

2017 Annual Performance-Based Regulation Rate Adjustment Filing

Costs Award

Proceeding 22249

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1 Introduction

1. In this decision the Alberta Utilities Commission considers an application (the costs claim application) by the Consumers' Coalition of Alberta (CCA) for approval and payment of its costs of participation in Proceeding 21987¹ (the original proceeding). The following table sets out the costs claimed and the amounts awarded:

Claimant	Total Fees Claimed	Total Disbursements Claimed	Total GST Claimed	Total Amount Claimed	Total Fees Awarded	Total Disbursements Awarded	Total GST Awarded	Total Amount Awarded
CCA								
Wachowich & Company	\$875.00	\$0.00	\$43.75	\$918.75	\$875.00	\$0.00	\$43.75	\$918.75
Regulatory Services Inc.	\$6,183.00	\$23.20	\$310.31	\$6,516.51	\$6,183.00	\$23.20	\$310.31	\$6,516.51
Total	\$7,058.00	\$23.20	\$354.06	\$7,435.26	\$7,058.00	\$23.20	\$354.06	\$7,435.26

2. The Commission decided to approve the costs, as claimed, for the reasons provided below.

3. The original proceeding was convened by the Commission to consider an application by AltaGas Utilities Inc. for approval of its 2017 annual performance-based regulation rate adjustment filing. The original proceeding included information requests (IRs), IR responses, argument and reply argument. The close of record for the original proceeding was November 7, 2016 and the Commission issued Decision 21987-D01-2016² on December 9, 2016.

4. The CCA submitted its costs claim application on December 8, 2016, within the 30 day timeline permitted by the Commission's rules. The Commission assigned Proceeding 22249 and Application 22249-A001 to the costs claim application.

5. No comments were filed with respect to the costs claim applications and the Commission considers the close of record for this proceeding to be January 4, 2017, the deadline for filing comments.

¹ Proceeding 21987: AltaGas Utilities Inc. 2017 Annual Performance-Based Regulation Rate Adjustment Filing

² Decision 21987-D01-2017: AltaGas Utilities Inc. 2017 Annual Performance-Based Regulation Rate Adjustment Filing, December 9, 2016.

2 Commission findings

6. The Commission's authority to award costs for participation in a utility rates proceeding is found in Section 21 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*. When considering a claim for costs for a utility rates proceeding, the Commission is also guided by the factors set out in Section 11 of Rule 022: *Rules on Costs in Utility Rate Proceedings* (Rule 022) which allows the Commission to consider, among other things, whether costs claims are reasonable and directly and necessarily related to the original proceeding, and whether the participants acted responsibly and contributed to a better understanding of the issues before the Commission. Appendix A of Rule 022 prescribes a Scale of Costs applicable to all costs claimed.

2.1 Consumers' Coalition of Alberta

7. The following table summarizes the CCA's costs claim.

Claimant	Hours			Fees	Disbursements	GST	Total
	Preparation	Attendance	Argument				
CCA							
Wachowich & Company	1.35	0.00	1.15	\$875.00	\$0.00	\$43.75	\$918.75
Regulatory Services Inc.	17.40	0.00	5.50	\$6,183.00	\$23.20	\$310.31	\$6,516.51
Total	18.75	0.00	6.65	\$7,058.00	\$23.20	\$354.06	\$7,435.26

8. The Commission finds that the CCA acted responsibly in the original proceeding and contributed to a better understanding of the relevant issues in the proceeding.

Wachowich & Company

9. The CCA was represented by Wachowich & Company in the original proceeding. The fees claimed by the CCA for the legal services provided by Mr. Wachowich relate to reviewing the application, reviewing draft IRs and reviewing draft argument and reply argument.

10. The Commission finds that the services performed by Mr. Wachowich were directly and necessarily related to the CCA's participation in the original proceeding, and that the fees, which were claimed in accordance with the Scale of Costs for those services, are reasonable. Accordingly, the Commission approves the CCA's claim for legal fees for Wachowich & Company in the amount of \$875.00 and GST of \$43.75 for a total of \$918.75.

Regulatory Services Inc.

11. Regulatory Services Inc. was retained by the CCA to perform consulting services in the original proceeding. The fees claimed by the CCA for the consulting services provided by Mr. Jodoin relate to reviewing the application, drafting IRs, reviewing IR responses, and drafting argument and reply argument.

12. The Commission finds that the services performed by Mr. Jodoin were directly and necessarily related to the CCA's participation in the original proceeding, and that the fees and disbursements, which were claimed in accordance with the Scale of Costs for those services, are reasonable. Accordingly, the Commission approves the CCA's claim for consulting fees for Regulatory Services Inc. in the amount of \$6,183.00, disbursements for photocopying of \$23.20 and GST of \$310.31 for a total of \$6,516.51.

3 Order

13. It is hereby ordered that:

- 1) AltaGas Utilities Inc. shall pay intervener costs to the Consumers' Coalition of Alberta in the amount of \$7,435.26.
- 2) AltaGas Utilities Inc. shall record in its Deferred Regulatory Costs (Hearing) account approved intervener amounts of \$7,435.26.

Dated on February 10, 2017.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Bill Lyttle
Commission Member